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**November 5, 2010** 

Via Messenger

Christopher Hughey, Esa. Acting General Counsel **Federal Election Comission** 999 E Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20463

MUR# 6427

Re: Fraudulent Misrepresentation of Campaign Authority

Dear Mr. Hughey:

We are writing to call the attention of the Commission to what appears to be a serious, knowing and willful violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, by unknown persons. Specifically, a fraudulent press release was issued on Friday, October 29, 2010, stating, falsely, that our client, Scott Eckersley, the Demogratic nominor for U.S. House of Representatives from the 7th Congressional District of Missouth, was suspending his usupaign. This finedulent press release was sent from a fraudulmi yahon.com email account set up in the mme of Scott Eckersley. (A conty of the press release is attached hence as Exhibit A). Subrequent to the dissemination of the press minase, the campaign received several cells from local press, and the fake press release generated stories in the press speculating that Mr. Eckersley was dropping out of the election. (A sample of stories from the Internet websites of local press outlets is attached as Exhibit B). A copy of the press release was forwarded by our office to the Justice Department's Public Integrity Division earlier this week.

Through the media, the campaign has been able to identify the IP address from which it was tent and the general location of that IP attirers. The IP acidress is 24.14.20.113, and the general luxation is Glendale Heights, Hilinois. (See Exhibit C attached hereto).

In addition, the Missouri political blog www.firedupmissouri.com captums a screenshot of a Twitter "tweet" by an individual named James Harris, who is a political consultant for Mr. Eckersley's opponent, Billy Long. (A copy of that blog entry is attached as Exhibit D). It appears that this "tweet" was disseminated simultaneously with the first media report about the fake press release indicating that Mr. Eckersley was suspending his campaign. James Harris attempted to delete his original tweet, and did as, but before he did, a former employee named Shawn Bell retweeted Herris's original twoet.

The apparent timing of this "tweet" by Mr. Harris raises a question as to whether Mr. Harris, and/or possibly others associated with the Long campalgn, rany have had prior knowledge of this fraudulent press reluise.

Further, earlier last month, a blogger had alerted the Eckersley Campaign about a fraudulent Twitter account that had been set up in the nurse of Mr. Eckersley. The "followers" of that fake account included an entity identified as "LF Strategies," which issued its own "tweet" oritical of Mr. Eckersley and encouraging individuals to follow the fake Twitter account. The fake twitter account was being followed by over 200 twitter subscribers, including Billy Long and Roy Blunt. The campaign's official twitter feed, which had been active for over six months, had only 139 followers. That "tweet" was deleted, however, immediately after the media began to report on the freadulent press release described above. It should be noted that a company known as "Lake front Strategies" is a political consulting firm incated in Gladdule Heights, Illinois, a few miles from Addison, Illianis where the fire press release eriginated. That firm is owned by a Patrick J. Binning, former chair of the Illinois College Republican Federation who also served as that organization's executive director, in 2009, Mr. Binning is originally from Springfield, Missouri and graduated from a small private High School with the eldest daughter of Billy Long. Soon after press reports of the fake press release emerged, Mr. Binning disabled the website of his consulting firm and the fake twitter account was immodiately deleted as well (Attached as Exhibit E, please find a blog entry from a the political blog, bungalowbillscw/blogspot.com, which gutlines the likely connections between Patnok Binning and the fake enail and twitter accounts and the relationship between Binning and the Billy Lung numonign). In midition, my client has demand that Mr. Binning had posted a message on Mr. Long's Facebook page shortly after the election that congratulated him on his primary victory and offered any assistance necessary during the general election campaign.

The attempt to send a press release in the name of the candidate that falsely states the candidate is dropping out of the race is a clear violation of 2 U.S.C. § 441h. Section 441h states, in part, that it is unlawful for any person who is a candidate for federal office or their agents of that candidate to "(1) fraudulently misrepresent himself or any committee or organization under his control as speaking or writing or otherwise acting for un beimli of any other candidate or political party or employee or agent thereof on a matter which is domaging to such other candidate or political party or amployee or agent thereof; or (2) willfully and knowingly participate in or conspite to participate in any plan, scheme or design to violate paragraph (1)."

We urge the Commission to proceed immediately with an investigation into this matter and to penaltize those responsible for these fraudulent campaign activities to the fullest extent of the law.

The Eckersley Campaign is committed to cooperating fully with the investigation and to providing any information that it has that may be useful.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Neil P. Reiff

Counsel to Scott Eckersley for

١

Congress

Signed and sworn to before me this 5 day of November, 2010

**Notary Public:** 

Mary F. Vincent

My Commission Expires: March 31, 2013

MARY F. VINCENT Notary Public, District of Columbia My Commission Expires March 31, 2013

# Exhibit A

From: Scott Eckersley [mailto:scott.eckersley@yaheo.com]

Sent: Friday, October 29, 2010 7:50 AM

To: scott. eckersiev@vaboo.com

Subject: For Immediate Release-Eckersley for Congress

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 7:45 A.M. CST, OCTOBER 29TH 2010----SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI
PRESS ADVISORY

Eckersley Suspends Campaign for Congress and Withdraws Until Further Notice

Due to Personal Matiers that have arose over the last several days, Scott Rekersley who is running for Congress in the Missouri's 7th Congressional District is Suspending his campaign until further notice.

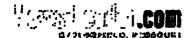
"I am saddened that I am having to do this, however at this time, this is the best decision for myself and my family" said Bekersley. "I would like to thank my supporters for all that they have done for me and I hope that they will understand my decision.".

### \*\*\*\*

Scott Eckersley Eskersley for Congress Phone: (388) 788-3643 Fak: (888) 900-2512

Springfield, MQ 65808 www.CheckEck.org ECKERSLBY FOR U.S. CONGRESS

# Exhibit B





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### Campaign staffer: Email stating Eckersley withdrawing from race is untrue

### **OCTOBER30, 2010**

Continute (41) Recommend Print this page 5-might this aiddle Stere Type State A A

An e-mill released trip morning under Scott Eckerstay's name saying he has guilled out of the 7th Congretational Oldfict race "irban" trips," according to Equarately's Deputy Campaign staffer Danny Glodings.

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### RELATED

E-mail perpotting to be from Echanolog companies as have originated near Chicago

"The rungers are all falsts," said Glodings.

"This is the kind of politics where you wake on attack and tun behind a third plany. Its enecky."

Gladings sidd Echanidity bitends to make a public statement today addressing the phony press release.

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### Cempalgin@ChieckEck.org

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### Eckerally says email a hear (0200)

7th District Congressional candidate Scott Est armail distributed Priday October 28; saying he within their the mice was a House.

NORE VIDEO





10/29/2010 3:3 II PM

kspr.com/news/local/kspr-eckersley-blames-long-for-emai-102910,0;5730538.story

# kspr.com

## **Eckersley Blames Long For E-Mail Hoax**

A fake e-mail sent under the Democrat's name claimed he was dropping his congressional bid

Ron Davis

Senior Producer

12:01 PM CDT, October 29, 2010

SPRINGFIELD, Mo.

A fake email sent under Scott Eckersley's name claimed the Democrat was suspending his campaign for U.S. Congress.

KSPR was first to report the e-mind was likely at huax.

The e-mail -- riddled with grammatical errors and types -- was sent shortly before 8 a.m. Friday to local media. In it, the take Eckersley ymte:

"Due to Personal Matters that have arose (sic) over the last several days, Scott Eckersley who is running for Congressional District is Suspending his campaign until further notice."

Eckersley was campaigning in Joplin Thursday night and was asleep when the e-mail furor crupted. He did not respond to several e-mails, calls and texts to his cell phone, campaign heatiquaters and personal e-mail account, heightening the initial confusion.

in a hastily callednesse conference, Eckersley lashed out at his Republican opponent, Billy Lang, and claimed Long was behind the dirty trick. But Eckersley offered up proof to support his claim.

Long did not return repeated calls for comment.

Copyright © 2010, KSPR-TV

### Eckersley Denies Reports of Suspending Campaign

# Print Writin

### i Ork rating



(Springlind: MG) - Offiticial Scott Extension is chooling balck after at little chrigilign email stated he was backing out of Milesour's Severshi (Satrict race.

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Estabrility says he'll be Seating a statement at 2 p.m. Friday to relate the pliciny press release. Reporter ...Biffin Richardeds set down with Edhardes; tills marking and settless are reaction on KÖLA to Name at 3 and 6.

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Eckersley is not withdrawing from congressiqual race: e-mail message was fake

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ky3.com/news/ky3-eckersley-not-withdrawing-from-102910,0,7160880.story

# ky3.com

# Eckerşley is not withdrawing from congressional race; e-mail message was fake

by KY3 News

newsalerts@ky3.com

4:51 AM CDT, October 29, 2010

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. -- Scott Eckersley's office says an e-mail message stating the Democratic Party candidate is withdrawing from the 7th Congressional District race is a heax. A staffer says the message sent out Friday morning was a fake.

The mossage should have been easily identified as a fraud. It came from a Yahoo.com account with the text in the body of the message. Eckersley's campaign sends out e-mailed news releases in .pdf attachments, and often doesn't put much text, if any at all, in the body of the e-mail message. The message was sent at 7:50 a.m. Rriday.

Eckersley is tunning against Republican Billy Long, Libertarian Kevin Craig, and write-in candidates
Nichplas Ladendorf and D. Day. They're vying to replace Rep. Roy Blunt, the Republican candidate for U.S.
Senate.

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PEMERENETION AND LIFE NEWS-LEADER

# E-mail purporting to be from Eckersley campaign appears to have originated near Chicago

QCTOBER 29, 2010

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The e-mail purporting to be from Social Echanologic comparign appears to have originated from a Chicago autium.

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Correction@Chaptifich.com

GRANGE, GIRL EQUERACY & STATE also supported that a boque Twelve, account has been but up in Ecologicy's name.

Eckersley says email a hoax (02:08)

7th Digarici Congressional candidate Scott Scharstey says émist distributed Friday October 28, saying he visa withthe integration that ractif wise a felial.

erike videö



Participation of the Control of the

# False media release says Eckersley suspending campaign

EU Yokley

- October 29, 2010 Posted in: 7th Congressional District



Eckersky campaigning in Joplin Thursday night. (TPI Photo/Natalic Preston)

UPDATEEN Hinnis says he had "abustately no involvement" in fake Twitter, E-Maji.

(SPRINGFIELD, Mar.) Rumors began circulating Democrat Septt Eckersley would be dropping out of the severth-compressional race against Republican Billy Long after an entail was sent to reporters by a translatent "Septt Eckersley" against secount.

"I am saddened that I am having to do this, however at this time, this is the best decision for myself and my family" said the small. "I would like to thank my supporters for all that they have done for the anti I hope that they will understand my decision."

The Enkelsky campaign denied the citim.

"This is the Aidd of politics where you mile on attack and can liabled a thirt party. It's seaky," and Deputy Compaign Magager Danny Guidings.

."This is the worst kind of negative campdigates - when a campaign hides while they have others do their dirty work. I am sure Billy would love to have me sup of the race, but this isn't the way to go about it," said Eckersloy; "This thing isn't over antil November 2nd."

hist lax diğin, ite tedit bir k cintipaliya taring Ulfoliya Joplin, speaking with College Democrats and the Democratic Women's chib.

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"Alterbales an implement," he says, is the falle accounts.

The Long paymetign did nor immediately respond to a request for comment.

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# Exhibit C

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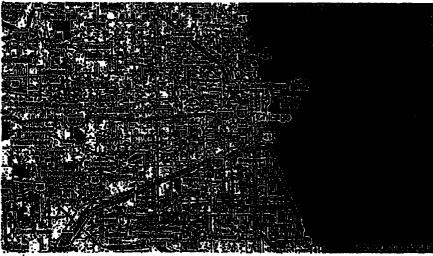
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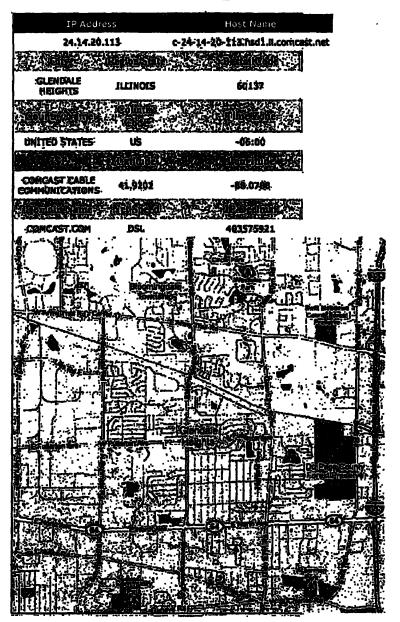


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- Geolocation Map

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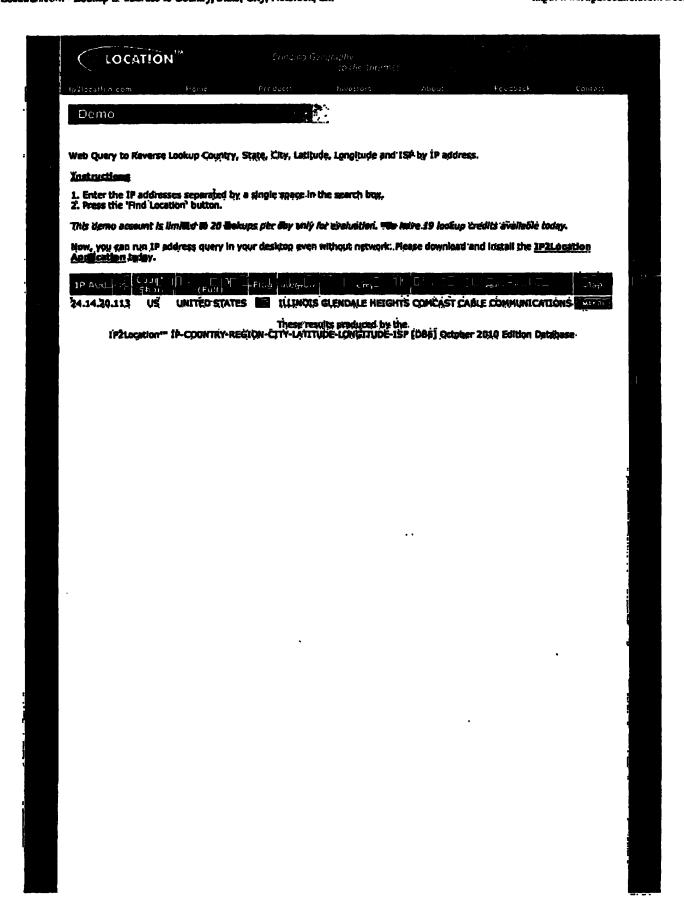
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# Exhibit D



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SEARCH

## **Billy Long Consultant James Harris Pushes False Rumor About Scott Eckerslev**

UPDATE: Boll has also detailed his threat (screen cap below) without issuing an apology or correction.

Sortie special person distributéd à Gike ériese release this months declaring the Démiocrètie candidate Scott-Eckersley is withdrawing from the 7th Congressional Eletrict the Friday before Election Day. A pouple of clues that it way a late? It come from a Yafrop.com empil address no time that helect of state contains smaller grantmatical birtors.

Gyt Silly Long consultant James Pierrie was.heppy to push the numpranyway, because he's a leastly blooding Sulfe.



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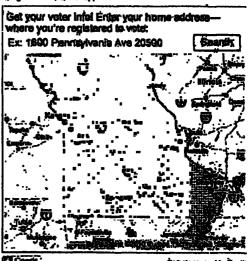
(And yes, this retweet is: fittiff the saths Shaws Bell who workedhioris for Islants and was on the wrong and of a Rep. Erfan Nievas frack out because he thought Hanfa-was behind a tetter accurate Nievas of having extramental affairs with lightlying.)

Harris has since delated his original tweet — and has not published a correction or apology but the interrets manamber.

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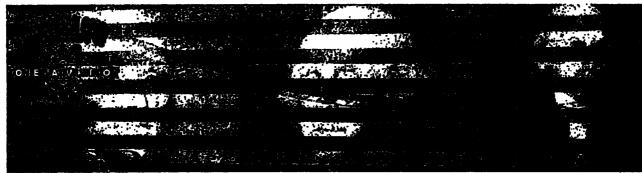
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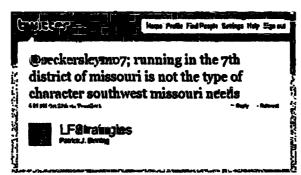


## Friday, October 29, 2010

Is Chicagoland's Lakefront Strategies
Behind the Fraudulent Scott Eckersley EMail?: Bilty Long Connections to
Fraudulent E-Mail

The Springfield News-Leader reports the fraudulent Scritt Eckersley suspends campaign e-mail originated from an ISP located in Addison, Illinois. So that opens a question, why would someone from Chicagoland be interested in our Congressional race in Southwest Missour?

Earlier trie unnels, bloggents singue talking about a francial out South Eckerslay Switter account that was sending text tweets reisreparamenting Eckersley's position on the issues. A closer look at the followers of the fake Scott Eckersley for Congress Twitter account Identified a curious follower known as LFStrategies. LFStrategies tweeted the following encountiging people to take a more at viting Eckersley is bad for Southwest Millestin.



Interestingly enough, that tweet, which was at the following link http://twitter.com/LFStrategles/status/28739191567, has been removed as has the fake Scott Eckersley twitter account shortly after news broke the Eckersley campaign was prepared to press criminal charges against whoever wrote the e-mail.

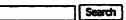
It was noted earlier today, that Billy Long's campaign strategist James Harris quisiting trusted attent the frametisent e-wall withing over verifying its accuracy. As well, Shawn that, who Fired Up Missouri identified as nace working for Hastic, and will one accused of using similar letter writing tastics against Balan Nienes, present and commoned their twests within the hour. Ball is now cuting bloggers begging them to remove his name from the story trying to distance himself from James Harris, Billy Long and this story about the e-mail. Jim Lae, who writes Busplunge spoke to a nervous Bell about 2:30 this afternoon. Lee recorded the conversetion, and I listened to the tape of Bell distancing himself from James Harris and Billy Long. Why tild Ball feld the need to call binggans wito quintily announced field's breat and and



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Donate-Long is Wrong PAC





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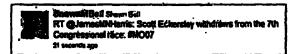
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Media Inquirius: Pleasa direct all media and Interview requests to longisarrang@ymail.com. his connection to James Harris? What is Bell afraid of?



Let's go back to LFStrategies, and look at why they may have deleted their tweet promoting the fake Scott Eckersley twitter account, and let's also ask was LFStrategies behind the fake Scott Eckersley twitter account.



As mentioned earlier, the e-mail's ISP shows that it originated in Addison, IL. It turns out that just a couple miles away is Lakefront Strategies (LFStrategies on Twitter) in Glendale Heights. Coincidentally, the current Missouri 7 Representative and US Senate candidate Roy Blunt follows Lakefront Strategies on Twitter and so does 8ffly Long.

Perspective\*
Some good news from
CA, George Soros is
frowning,
10 hours ago

- The Last Tradition
  One Show host Jason
  Manford in Sexting
  Scandel with Debra
  McNamee
  11 hours ago
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  Fundraising for Absentee
  Ballot Count in NY25?
  12 hours ago

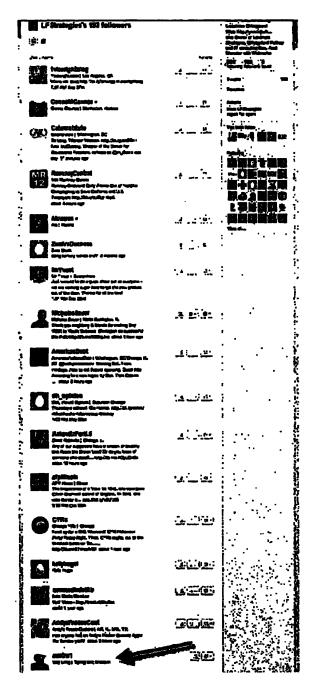
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  Republicans
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  Despite Historic Midterse
  Smackdown
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  Expected Fed Action
  Described As 'Big
  Gamble' (Update)
  2 days ago
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  Meet Your New
  Congressman
  2 days ago
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- (a) Obama Regime

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Contributors

Michael Wardeli Wendy Bungalow Bill



Isn't it strange that when criminal charges began being tossed about, Lake Front Strategies, a political strategy company that was encouraging a fraudulent Scott Eckersley Twitter account suddenly removes the tweet that reads, Geschersleymo7; running in the 7th district of Missouri is not the type of character Southwest Missouri needs. Why remove this tweet if it was innocent shortly after Eckersley announces there will criminal investigation?

It's very possible the e-mail may have been sent from Lakefront Strategies. Considering how we see back scratching works in politics, especially in Jeff Roe's world with the Mike Huckabee's endorsement of Billy Long, which was a political favor for Roe's work in the 2008 Huckabee for President campaign, is Lakefront Strategies helping the Kansas City strategists out—a political favor so to speak?

- Report
  3 weeks ago
- Republicans for Eckersley Long is Wrong about the Post office, and here's why: 4 weeks ago
- The Right Stuff
  The Lies That Blind
  2 months ago
- Coffee Milk
  Conservative
  How Liberal is Your
  Lawmaker?
  6 months ago

Biogger: Private	[13488]	
	[10879]	
you can't smoke sold	[5197]	
AOL Search	[4277]	
Leaving Facebook	[2567]	
Google	[2153]	
Ask Search	[1727]	
Bungalow Bill's Cons	[872]	
Comcast Search	[742]	
Left Coast Rebel	[721]	
42,623		

### **Biog Archive**

November 2010 (194) October 2010 (630) September 2010 (456) August 2010 (178) July 2010 (66) June 2010 (93) May 2010 (279) April 2010 (525) March 2010 (576) February 2010 (543) January 2010 (779) December 2009 (550) November 2009 (433) October 2009 (256) September 2009 (367) August 2009 (430) July 2009 (317) June 2009 (342) May 2009 (349) April 2009 (363) March 2009 (374) February 2009 (296) January 2009 (302) December 2008 (176) November 2008 (111)

October 2008 (30)

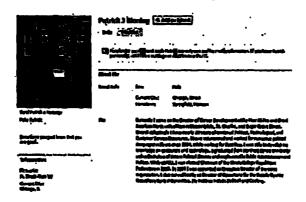
Consider the closeness of Glendale Heights, Illinois, to Addison, IL. Here's a stap of the two Ghianno suburbs:



Addison boarders Glendale Heights and is divided by Interstate 355 formerly known at the North South Tollway now called Veterans Memorial Tollway. It's very possible Lakefront Strategies Internet server is located in Addison.

Here's some basic information about Lakefront Strategies. It's a political strategy organization like Jeff Roe's Axiom Strategles. It's owned by Patrick J. Birming.

Patrick J. Mervillag's Familiocit page says like its from Springfield, Missouri. It also ties him to Re-Mar, a real estate company, which is enforced on his Linked In page. Is this a coincidence, or does this suggest there could be a very real tie to Billy Long?



### Patrick J. Binning

Observed Corner Companyon at Statiffree-Shiftes and Gorales Chicago Antis



Carrent - Director of Career Development at Radilax All-Pre-and Great American Horis - Principal and CEO at Latefrant Strategies

### Patrick J. Binning's Summary

Touk a Statewide Political Cognitication from a 90 to a fire figure budget in 9

of membership and and Charg mitershorant by (90% injust) much

### Patrick J. Binning's Experience

Director of Career Cave Hex All-Pro and Great American M Real Extrae industry: October 2010 — Present (1 marth) Recouling will Developing Hew as II Top Predicing Real Extrae Agains

Principal and CEO efront Stratogics lecti Organization indextry) 2008 — Present (2 years 4 marths) Labeltont Strategies in a full conice Fullified Consulting First that

A closer lock at at Patrick J. Benning's education shows he went to Greenwood Laboratory School from 1991 to 2004. Cansidering his age, that puts him at the school about the same time Billy Long's daughters

### Publick J. Bianing's Education

B.A., Poblical Science, Philippe and Caminages, Public Administration , 2004 — 2009

Activities and Socialise: College Republicans

would have attended Greenwood.

Grade and High School , Germanapite.signatory Schief , 1918 -- 2004

Acitrifies and Scainfies: Buskethall, FCA, Model UN, Ozarta Science and Englesening File.

As well, Binning has been very active in Republican party politics starting in college. His Facebook page reads:

While at NIU, I was elected Chairman of the Illinois College Republican Federation in 2007. In 2008 I was appointed as Brecutive Director of the same organization. I also surved briefly as Director of Operations for the DeKalb County Republican Central Committee.

Considering all these assing dences, did Fautick J. Birating write the email to the media that daimed Scott Eckersley was suspending his

### campaign?

Considering Shawn Bell's nervousness to distance himself from James Harris and Billy Long, did Billy Long's strategists pay Patrick J. Binning to write the e-mail that caused the controversy today? Posted by Bungalow Bill at 29.10.10

### 2 comments:

Anonymous said...

Too bad the News-Leader aren't as through as you are.



October 29, 2010 6:03 PM Jenny said...

Did anybody else notice that the person who wrote the "press reliese" seems to have some of the same word capitalization issues (capitalizing words/phrases that don't need capitalization) as the person who tweets under twitter.com/auctor1 and twitter.com/BillylsFEDUP?

October 30, 2010 12:06 AM

### Post a Comment

Name calling and off-color comments will not be tolerated.

Comment as: Select profile...

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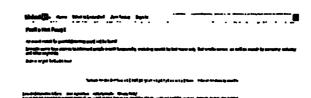
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stemeter Ada



## Saturday, October 30, 2010

Patrick J. Binning Removes Linked In Profile With Key Information That Could Tie Him to Billy Long and Controversial E-Mail



Patrick J. Binning continues to cover his electronic tracks on the Internet. As mentioned earlier today, his LFStrategies Twitter account was removed after it was exposed ine promoted the fake Scott Eckersley Twitter account and the ISP of the fake Scott Eckersley e-mail claiming Eck was dropping out of the race.

Binning's Littles II in page shawed his Springhald, Masouri connection, his involvement in GOP politics, and that he graticated from Greenwood probably blacut the time of Mily Lang's daughters. As neal, be come a political connecting firm lectated just a counte miles from Addison, IL, where the IP address says the e-mail came from.

I will be sending the Eckersley campaign the saved Linked In profile so Eckersley's attorney can look at the evidence and make a decision whether or not to press charges. There does seem to be a Siliy Long connection with this e-mill at the moment, and surveyee is working hard to creat their tracks.

Posted by Bungalow Bill at 30.10.10

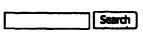
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### What's Right

Left Coast Rebel
Nate's recent Rasmussen
blan: I sure hope New
York Times' Nate Silver of
\$38 imows about outliers
19 minutes ago

Nice Deb Friday Free-For-All 21 minutes ago

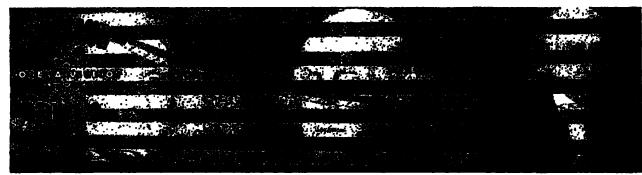
- Bob McCarty Wriass
  World War II Stories
  Shared to Honor
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- QUICKWIT

  More Stimulus will still

  not work

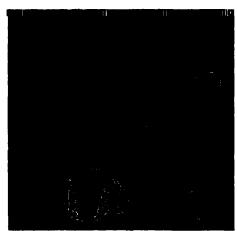
  54 minutes ago
- Reaganite
  Republican
  Looks Like Somebody
  Called the GOPs....
  1 hour ago
- Allied Liberty News
  Joplin Mo Smoking Ban
  1 hour ago

**cocked and loaded** Kansans Back Gun Rights *3 hours ago* 



## Sunday, October 31, 2010

Billy Long's Daughter Would Have Graduated With Patrick J. Binning at Greenwood



In a series of interviews with Billy Long, Sarah Steelman asks Billy Long about his family. Long notes his daughters are 21 and 24 years old. This means the oldest daughter graduated from Greenwood with Patrick J. Benning. Benning of course is the CEO of Lakefront Strategies, who some believe is behind the false Scott Eckersley e-mail that shook up the campaign on Friday that announced Eckersley was dropping out of the race.

Without any veriffication, its being reported that even Effly Long himselff started eating suppressures amounting that Educatey had suit the rase early Friday summing. There as pears to be a strong community to the enmall and the ising compage, and the rage of Long's daughters mean both of them attended subport at Greenwood with Patrick J. Binning.

Binning has been busy since the Eckersley campaign announced the FBI was investigating the e-mail removing his digital footprint from the Internet.

Posted by Bungalbw Bib &t 31.10.100

O comments:



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More Stimulus will still
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